THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
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FOR RELEASE

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART MARKS FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY IN ANNIVERSARY YEAR ACTIVITIES

On June 6, 1916 The Cleveland Museum of Art was formally dedicated and opened to the public. ~~Exactly~~ Fifty years later, on June 16th of this year, the Museum will begin a year-long commemoration of that inaugural date to be marked by special exhibitions, a group of supremely important accessions, lectures, musical programs and publications. The year's events are being made possible by a generous grant from The John Huntington Art and Polytechnic Trust.

The golden anniversary will be inaugurated at a banquet on June 13th. The guest speaker will be Sir Frank Francis, Director of the British Museum in London.

On June 15th, an exhibition, FIFTY YEARS OF MODERN ART, will open, continuing through July 31. This exhibit includes more than 100 works of modern art, organized chronologically. An accompanying book-catalog is being prepared.

The next exhibition will be GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ACQUISITIONS, opening September 10 and closing October 16 and consisting of an extremely important group of objects recently acquired in each curatorial department. There will be a dinner before the preview opening of this show for art scholars and U.S. and European museum officials.

The third major exhibition, TREASURES FROM MEDIEVAL FRANCE, from November 16, 1966 through January 29, 1967, will include works from the Louvre, French provincial museums, cathedrals, churches and historical monuments as well as American-owned treasures. A book-catalog is being prepared and a dinner for approximately two hundred guests will be given prior to the exhibition's opening.

The Museum also will present ANCIENT CHINESE ART FROM THE COLLECTION OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SWEDEN, opening March 1, 1967. This exhibit will close April 2.

(Continued)

The Museum's annual MAY SHOW, which brings together jury-selected works of artists from northeastern Ohio, will close the anniversary year. The dates for this show are May 3 through June 18, 1967. A reception and dinner for artists will be given before the opening.

For each of these exhibitions the Museum has invited distinguished scholars, from this country and abroad, to speak on their subjects.

In addition to the book-catalogs for two of the special exhibitions, the Museum is preparing to publish five other books: one of the most important is a 120-page, illustrated history of the Museum as related to Cleveland, written by historian Carl Wittke, retired dean of Western Reserve University's graduate school of history; another will be devoted to illustrating, in color and black and white, two hundred forty of the Museum's most important objects; there will also be a comprehensive catalog of the Museum's collections with some 1100 black and white illustrations. Two other catalogs will be published -- one prepared by Dorothy Shepherd, Curator of Textiles, on five hundred twenty Museum textiles with introductory text and illustrations; and another on the paintings and illuminated manuscripts in the Museum collections up to 1500 A.D. Mr. Henry Francis, Curator of Paintings, is the author.

The Musical Arts Department of the Museum is also scheduling several programs including two chamber music works.

Further programs marking the Golden Anniversary Year are presently being organized.

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